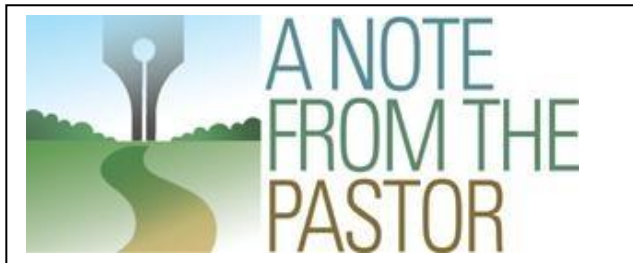


August 2021

*Living and trusting in God's amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ's love.*

# The MESSENGER

A publication of Kerkhoven Lutheran Church, Kerkhoven, MN 56252



*"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus." I Cor. 1:4*

The Apostle Paul gave thanks for the grace God gave to the church in Corinth. Paul was not naïve nor had he closed his eyes to their brokenness. As their shepherd, he

gave them stern warnings to change their attitude and ways. Yet Paul was sincere in his thankful praise. The grace God had given them in Christ Jesus was the key to Paul's thankfulness. He knew that this love of God had triumphed over sin – even for those in Corinth. In his own life Paul had seen how grace can change a fierce enemy of the church into a faithful servant of God.

In a recent conversation, one of you reminded me that the church is not a playground for saints but a hospital for 'sinners.' Couldn't be said better! The apostle Paul would agree. Hence, I remind you: remember God's grace and you will be "always thankful."

The summer days at Kerkhoven Lutheran refuse to linger. Preparations are underway for fall in-person Sunday School and Confirmation. The Call Committee has finalized our Ministry Site Profile. Your church council is stepping forward. God's grace in Christ has been active. For all of this and more I say Thank You . . . for your many prayers, your faithful support, and for advancing the ministry of the Gospel among us.

Pastor Tim Larson

## KLC CHURCH BOARDS AND COUNCIL

The Church Council and Boards meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Boards meet at 7:00 pm and Church Council meets at 7:30 pm.

Council members please review the Ministry Site Profile prior to the meeting so that we can discuss and move forward with approval.

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### KLC Office Hours

#### Summer Hours

Monday and Friday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Wednesday: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

## Stewardship of our leisure time

*I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun. **Ecclesiastes 8:15***

Busy-ness keeps us from living with joy and peace in today's 24/7 world, but Scripture reminds us that this is hardly new. Ecclesiastes was written some 2,500 years ago! Ecclesiastes does not give license for mindless pleasure-seeking, but rather affirms that our hard work should be balanced with time for relaxation and enjoyment with friends and family.

Saints and mystics have long touted the need for rest and renewal. In the monastic tradition it's referred to as *otium sanctum* – Holy Leisure. Not just wasting our free time, but using it for renewal. As steward/disciples, we aim to use our leisure time wisely. Here are some ideas:

**Keep the Sabbath:** God actually *commands* us to stop working one day per week, as Exodus 20:8-11 makes clear. But there is no prohibition against leisure. (Why else would God give us a day off?)

**Plan your vacation:** Even if you're taking a STAYcation, *plan* your time for maximum rest and enjoyment.

**Manage your schedule:** Are you a slave to your appointment book, driven by *other people's* priorities? Put yourself first – scheduling in time for leisure. Even if it's just 30 minutes here and there!

**Find an activity you like:** What do you do just for you? Discover – or REdiscover – what brings you joy, then make time to do it.

**Socialize:** Friends and family make life enjoyable. Spend time with them.

**Invest, don't waste, time:** Many activities pass the time but don't give back much in renewal or refreshment. Choose activities wisely.

God expects us to work, but not work ourselves to death. Sabbath and leisure time provide means for us to find balance in our life, as well as friendship, love, renewal and purpose.

--Rob Blezard

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**WELCA Quilting:** Quilting continues each Wednesday 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Masks and social distancing protocols are followed as necessary. There is a catered noon luncheon with a free will donation each week.

**WELCA Mission Trip:** On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 6:15 in the morning about 23 women, men and children boarded a Rustad coach bus to journey to the metro area for a day of delivering mission quilts and items to several charities, education, discovery, food and fun. From all reports it was a very successful trip on all fronts.



A special thank you to everyone involved and members of KLC for your work support of our fundraising efforts during the local Town and Country Days celebration. We raised \$6200.00 for the General Fund. These funds allowed us to repay to our savings account all of the money that was necessary to be borrowed to meet our monthly obligations during the pandemic.

Thank you to Ross and Beth Carlson and Dottie the Cow and her calf for their participation in the event.

The KLC Stewardship and Finance Board

A special thank you to the Board of the Stewardship and Finance Board for the planning and implementing this effort.



## AUGUST

### Acolyte Schedule

<b>August 1, 2021</b>	9:00 am Rex and Magnus Nelson
<b>August 8, 2021</b>	9:00 am Corbin Nystrom
<b>August 15, 2021</b>	9:00 am Holtkamp Family
<b>August 22, 2021</b>	9:00 am Rudningen Family
<b>August 29, 2021</b>	9:00 am Corbin Nystrom

### Lector Schedule

<b>August 1, 2021</b>	9:00 am Hunter Weddington
<b>August 8, 2021</b>	9:00 am Scott Mitteness
<b>August 15, 2021</b>	9:00 am David Quale
<b>August 22, 2021</b>	9:00 am Phyllis Meyer
<b>August 29, 2021</b>	9:00 am Corbin Nystrom

### Usher Schedule

<b>August 1, 2021</b>	9:00 am Leif and Bonnie Carlson
<b>August 8, 2021</b>	9:00 am Scott and Jenell Mitteness
<b>August 15, 2021</b>	9:00 am Darrell and Dorothy Toutge
<b>August 22, 2021</b>	9:00 am Scott and Jenell Mitteness
<b>August 29, 2021</b>	9:00 am Cliff Nystrom Family

### Communion Assistants

<b>August 1, 2021</b>	9:00 am Sue Nelson
<b>August 15, 2021</b>	9:00 am Worship and Witness Board

### Greeters

<b>August 1, 2021</b>	9:00 am Weddington Family
<b>August 8, 2021</b>	9:00 am Jenell Mitteness
<b>August 15, 2021</b>	9:00 am Lee and Phyllis Meyer
<b>August 22, 2021</b>	9:00 am Lee and Phyllis Meyer
<b>August 29, 2021</b>	9:00 am Ann Hanson



**August 1, 2021: 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion**

**August 8, 2021: 9:00 am Worship**

**August 15, 2021: 9:00 am Worship/ Holy Communion**

**August 22, 2021: 9:00 am Worship**

**August 29, 2021: 9:00 am Worship**

**September 5, 2021: 9:00 am Worship/ Holy Communion**

*Coffee Fellowship follows Worship Service in Fellowship Hall*



The Call Committee has met twice and worked to finalize the Ministry Site Profile, an important tool in the search for a new pastor. This will be presented for Council approval at the August 4th meeting. Once approved, the document will be submitted to the synod and the committee will begin to receive candidates for consideration. If you have questions, please contact any member of the Call Committee. We thank you for your prayers during this important time for KLC!



## AUGUST BAPTISMS

Many people remember people's birthdays, but we also need to remember the day of our spiritual birth, our baptismal day. Also please take note of who was baptized during this month and wish them a happy baptismal day.

Mallory Carlson – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Kayla Hoffman – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Kelsey Cortez – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Jackson Ziehl – 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Bonnie Carlson – 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Clarice Larson – 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Zoe Olson – 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Jared Dokkebakken – 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Loretta Falk – 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Kristy Nystrom – 10<sup>th</sup>

Victoria Guilemard – 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Ross Carlson – 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Nathan Ruka – 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Grayson Reinke – 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Julie Jahn – 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Charlene Gordon – 19<sup>th</sup>  
 Bethany Ruka – 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Ted Meyer – 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Naomi Baker – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Kora Klein – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Amber Torkelson – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Melissa Rhoda – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Shep Nystrom – 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Derrick Henry – 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Rick Falk – 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Ruth Ann Falter – 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Josh Wagner – 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Darrell Toutge – 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Ashllie Hauge – 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Arlene Carls – 31<sup>st</sup>



August 2021



Larry Lindquist – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Jared Krieger – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Nicholas Meyer – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Sharyl Syverson – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Allison Miller – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Ryan Carlson – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Arlene Carls – 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Heidi Winter – 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Laura Worden – 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Trevor Kelm – 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Wylee Lottman – 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Kent Baker – 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Lane Carlson – 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Barbara Norton – 8<sup>th</sup>

Susan Nelson – 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Laura Lottman – 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Caleb Grothe – 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Spencer Almen – 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Brendan Hjelle – 11<sup>th</sup>  
 JoLynn Larson – 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Calvin Carls – 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Trinity Torkelson – 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Jeff Holtkamp – 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Megan Wenisch – 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Matthew Molenaar – 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Juanita Halverson – 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Bailey Petersen – 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Colton Kinney – 20<sup>th</sup>

Matthew Zvorak – 20<sup>th</sup>  
 James Just – 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Eric Lottman – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Joshua Nelson – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Regan Carlson – 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Katie Guse – 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Jeremy Winter – 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Scott Mitteness – 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Kalli Forsell – 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Dana Wenisch – 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Kayla Kelm – 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Ethan Hauge – 30<sup>th</sup>  
 John Zvorak – 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Lilyanna Winter – 30<sup>th</sup>



**Sunday School Teachers Needed:** The Board of Christian Education has been meeting to plan for Sunday School and Confirmation.

We need teachers, subs, and helpers for the Sunday School term. New curriculum is being researched and will be ordered and the date set for the start of the Sunday School year is September 12. Please watch the bulletin

and emails for updates and more information, including the distribution of Bibles to the students.



Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, September 15. Please watch the bulletins, emails and a letter will be sent to families with additional information regarding classes, times, and expectations.



## Youth Group News

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Adopt a Highway cleaning of the ditch along Highway 12. You are appreciated.

Planning is underway for youth group activities beginning in September. Please watch for update in the bulletin, KLC website, Facebook, email, and newsletter for updates of coming events.



Kerkhoven Lutheran is responsible for Meals on Wheels local delivery during the month of August. Please check you schedules as we have do not have anyone who has signed up. The meals usually arrive from Benson at 11:00 am on each Wednesday, August 4, 11, 18, and 25. These are mostly frozen meals for each week. The number of meals needing to be delivered varies each week. It usually takes about an hour to deliver the meals. The sign-up sheet is on the table between the church offices. Thank you.



Pastor Tim will be unavailable for the month of August, following the worship service on Sunday August 1. The Board of Worship and Witness is making plans for pulpit supply during his absence. Please continue to come and worship with us.

If you are in need of Pastoral Care or in case of an emergency please call the church office, 320-264-2823, Ann at 320-894-4464, or one of the members of the Executive Board: Ted Almen, Scott Mitteness, Beth Carlson or Eric Rudningen.



Congratulations to the Grand Prize winner of the Cow Pie Bingo on Saturday: Eldon Hauge!!! The udder winners were: Lauren Krieger, Jesse Nelson, Sue Wennerberg, Karen Lindquist, Marlene Hauge, Tiffany Collins, Jean Rustad and Carol Davis. Thank you to the community for your participation and support.





Received this letter from our Missionary. KLC has been assigned a new Missionary couple: Rev. Dr. Philip J. and Lou Knutson serving in Southern Africa to continue the ELCA's commitment to accompanying our companions.

Greetings in Christ!

As of July 15th, I will no longer serve as an ELCA missionary. I write these words sitting in my apartment in Kenya, quite dusty from my last visit over a year ago. It is set up looking like a place left in a hurry. I saw this before when I served in New Orleans, about two years after the storm. We would still find houses untouched, apartments left as if they were coming back tomorrow. You can tell I did the last bit of dishes; I hung some rags to dry, picked up a little and left long ago March 2020. I believed it would only be a few months at most. Now as I open drawers, I see the clothes I have not worn in over a year, the things I forgot I even had brought with me as I contemplate what can make the trip and what will be left behind.

There is definitely a feeling of sadness as I wrap this long and flexible four-year journey. I started in Southern Africa with Young Adults and Global Mission and journeying through Tanzania hoping to continue the program. Then when YAGM Southern Africa was finished I went to Kenya. Serving as the Lead Pastor to Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation was an in-person job, until myself and many others serving overseas were brought home for Covid 19. I have continued to serve in a long-distance capacity, but this will end July 15th.

No one could have predicted my last four years, and no one could have predicted our last year and a half. Yet amidst all of the switches and the unexpected, the constant has always been your love and support. There was love and support from the people and churches we worked with in all these countries. But the continued love and support from congregations like yours was of great importance. And I know I was not the great communicator, but I promise you, your support was felt. There are churches in Africa giving thanks for the ELCA and all her members. I know this, because I have brought greetings on our behalf to churches and leaders in five different countries over these last four years. I have been given hospitality because of the long-standing relationships our church has created. There were many who came before me and I trust more will come after me, which will continue to serve the ELCA, but also the greater church, a church without walls, without borders.

I pray as I finish my time, you will continue to support the good work the ELCA does in overseas mission. I pray you will consider giving to other missionaries like me who can only exist because of the commitments of others. Commitments to a greater church.

Maybe you have questions? I encourage you to reach out... [globalchurch@elca.org](mailto:globalchurch@elca.org). I know that people from the Global Mission Funding Team will also be reaching out in this transition to talk about covenant sponsorships going forward.

I give thanks for you all, I give thanks for our partners, and I give thanks for the good work we do together. May God bless you in your ministries, as we all journey forward from this pandemic.

Peace,

Rev. Alex LaChapelle Lead Pastor- Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation +254 794 299 308

[alexis.lachapelle@elca.org](mailto:alexis.lachapelle@elca.org)



Open House: We are gathering to celebrate Bp. Jon's 18 years of service to the southwestern Minnesota Synod. Bp. Jon will conclude his third, six year term as Bishop on August 31, 2021.

- Date: 8/14/2021 01:00 PM - 8/14/2021 05:00 PM
- Location: 901 East Cook Street, Redwood Falls, MN, USA

### Community Announcements

**Hope Pregnancy Center:** Hope Pregnancy Center invites you to our Annual Celebration of Life Fundraising Banquet that will be held at the Willmar Convention Center on Monday, September 13, 2021. Our keynote speakers, Dr. Tony Levatino and his wife, Ceil will share their inspiring story of transformation.

Doors open at 5:15 pm with a Social Hour and Silent Auction starting at 5:30 pm. Dinner, Live Auction and Program will begin at 6:30 pm. No tickets are required, but an RSVP is necessary! To reserve YOUR place at a table, call 320-235-7619 or register at [findhopepc.com/donors](http://findhopepc.com/donors) & follow the prompts.

**Thursday Food and Fun:** The summertime version of Thursday Food and Fun will be having cookies and coffee in the park on Thursday, August 5 at 2pm at the pool shelter. Tell your neighbor, bring a friend and see you there.

**Home Repair Grants:** The City of Kerkhoven and Swift County HRA still have some grants available with the Home Repair Program. Please contact either the Swift County HRA, Vicki Syverson, 320-843-4676 or City Clerk Kim Harkema, 320-264-2581 for more information. This is an income based program and is for residents in the City of Kerkhoven and DeGraff.



Please continue to remember these loved ones and friends in need of prayer during this month.

Phyllis Loven  
Gene Halverson  
Wally Loven  
Brad Welberg  
Andrea Rath

Kaehlen Fernholz  
Cami Fernholz  
Gladys Arends  
Henry Arends  
Ev Williams





MISSIONARY  
SUPPORT

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY TO SUPPORT REV. DR. PHILIP J. AND LOU KNUTSON**

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY DONATIONS FOR JULY 2021**

-----CLIP AND PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE-----

I would like to support Missionary for a Day on the date of \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: In honor of/In Memory of/In Thanks to God for \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_